

Torrance, California
December 1, 1942

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, December 1, 1942 at 4:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

Clerk Bartlett presented a sample ordinance, together with a communication from the League of California Cities, in which communication it was recommended by the League that the City of Torrance adopt an ordinance, similar to the sample ordinance enclosed, creating a Department of Civilian Defense.

Clerk Bartlett pointed out that Ordinance No. 334 of the City of Torrance, creating a local Defense Council, would have to be repealed if the ordinance as suggested by the League is adopted.

A discussion ensued pertaining to objectives of both ordinances, it being concluded that nothing in addition to what has already been accomplished could be accomplished by repealing of Ordinance No. 334 and adopting of a new ordinance, inasmuch as Ordinance No. 334 creates a local defense council and prescribes its duties and responsibilities. It was stated that Ordinance No. 334 could be amended if any changes are desired.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that no action be taken in this matter until the Office of Civilian Defense issues a report, inasmuch as copies of the ordinance were submitted by the League of California Cities to that office. This suggestion was met with approval.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the sample ordinance submitted by the League of California Cities, requesting the City, by adoption of said ordinance, to create a Department of Civilian Defense, be referred to the Ordinance Committee and the City Attorney for further study. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire requested Clerk Bartlett to obtain additional copies of the ordinance for perusal by all members of the City Council.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$95.00 be made for purchase of a Ford Stake Body truck for transportation of emergency fire equipment. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMAN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that the need of equipment operators for the City Street Department is quite urgent, and that in a recent advertisement of examination for the position, no applications had been received, but that one man, now employed by the City of Torrance Park Department, had applied for a position as an equipment operator for the Street Department. In the last few days, he continued, he had had several applications for the jobs as equipment operators of persons well qualified to do the work, but applications submitted were by persons outside the City. He questioned whether or not the new applicants should be considered for the job, or jobs, or whether the man now working for the Park Department should be given a chance to advance, the position of equipment operator being at a higher salary than the Park Department position.

It was the opinion of the Council that the man now working for the Park Department, if qualified in every respect for the job as equipment operator, should be advanced to that position.

Engineer Jain pointed out that the shortage of equipment operators in the Street Department is due to loss of young men to the Service, who have been replaced by older men working as laborers and who do not wish to operate equipment. He mentioned that one of the applicants for the job is now employed as an equipment operator for the City of Inglewood, but at a lower salary than that offered for the job with the City of Torrance. Councilman Hitchcock suggested that perhaps this man would be willing to take the position vacated by the Park Department man if the Park Department man is advanced. Mr. Jain pointed out that in the last year, eight men have been lost from the Street Department, and that, in a former motion of the Council authorizing Mr. Jain to hire two men and replace two men, three of the positions have been filled by laborers.

Engineer Jain asked whether or not an employee can arbitrarily accept a higher position on a temporary basis, and retain his civil service rating in his old position, and subsequently return to his old position at the same Civil Service rating as he left it to accept the higher temporary position.

After a short discussion pertaining to Civil Service Rules and Regulations, it was decided to submit the above question to the Civil Service Board.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to employ one additional equipment operator for the City Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain asked whether or not the Park Department man, after it is determined that he is qualified for the position as equipment operator, can be advanced from one position to another without Council Action. He mentioned that a salary increase would also be necessary for this man. It appeared to be the opinion of the majority of the Council that Council Action should be taken in this matter.

Engineer Jain asked permission to first determine whether or not the man is qualified for the position before deciding on advancement for him.

Engineer Jain brought up a question pertaining to transportation for an employee, Henry Dever, of the Park Department, stating that Mr. Dever works in the parks in the Hollywood Riviera section and resides in North Torrance, necessitating a drive of approximately eight miles to and from work. Mr. Jain inquired whether or not Mr. Dever could be allowed use of the City owned truck which he uses in connection with his park work, for driving to and from work. This idea did not meet with approval of the Council, the opinion being expressed that to do so would establish a precedent.

Councilman Powell suggested that one of the City employees who resides in Walteria, which community is near the Hollywood Riviera district, be allowed to perform the park work in that district, and Mr. Dever be placed in some other position to solve the transportation problem.

After continued discussion, it was decided that Mr. Dever would be allowed use of the City truck for performance of his duties with the Park Department only, his own transportation to and from work to be arranged by himself.

Engineer Jain reported that Chief McMaster, the City Mechanic and himself had endeavored to locate several trucks to be purchased by the City for transportation of emergency fire equipment. He stated that several old model vehicles, 1931 and 1932 models, had been located, but that prices for them average \$275.00 each. He was instructed to continue his efforts to locate suitable trucks at more reasonable prices.

At 5:23 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance